

AB-308U

10/731,551

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (original) A method for treating a patient with angina pectoris, comprising:
  - providing a miniature leadless implantable stimulator with at least one electrode and with a size and shape suitable for placement of the entire stimulator adjacent to a nerve;
  - implanting the stimulator adjacent to at least one tissue influencing the angina pectoris of the patient, which tissue is at least one of an intercostal nerve and an intercostal nerve branch;
  - providing operating power to the stimulator;
  - using an external appliance to transmit stimulation parameters to the stimulator;
  - receiving the stimulation parameters at the stimulator;
  - generating stimulation pulses in accordance with the stimulation parameters, which pulses are generated by the stimulator;
  - delivering stimulation pulses via the stimulator to the at least one of the intercostal nerves and intercostal nerve branches influencing angina pectoris as a treatment for angina pectoris.
2. (original) The method of Claim 1 further comprising generating and delivering excitatory stimulation pulses to at least one of the intercostal nerves and the intercostal nerve branches.

AB-308U

10/731,551

3. (original) The method of Claim 1 further comprising generating and delivering stimulation pulses of less than about 15 mA to at least one of the intercostal nerves and the intercostal nerve branches.

4. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the implantable stimulator further comprises at least one sensor and the method further comprises sensing at least one condition of the patient.

5. (original) The method of claim 4 wherein the at least one sensed condition is used to adjust the stimulation parameters.

6. (original) The method of claim 5 wherein the parameter adjustment is performed using the at least one external appliance.

7. (original) The method of claim 5 wherein the parameter adjustment is performed by the implantable stimulator.

8. (original) The method of Claim 1 further comprising  
providing at least one sensor;  
using the at least one sensor to sense a physical condition; and  
adjusting the stimulation parameters based on the sensed condition.

9. (original) A method for treating a patient with angina pectoris,  
comprising:

AB-308U

10/731,551

providing a miniature implantable stimulator with at least one electrode and with a size and shape suitable for placement of the at least one electrode adjacent to a nerve;

implanting the at least one electrode near at least one tissue influencing the angina pectoris of the patient, which tissue is at least one of an intercostal nerve and an intercostal nerve branch;

providing operating power to the stimulator;

using an external appliance to transmit stimulation parameters to the stimulator;

receiving the stimulation parameters at the stimulator;

generating stimulation pulses in accordance with the stimulation parameters, which pulses are generated by the stimulator;

delivering stimulation pulses via the stimulator and the at least one electrode to the at least one of the intercostal nerves and intercostal nerve branches influencing angina pectoris as a treatment for angina pectoris.

10. (original) The method of claim 9 wherein the at least one electrode is positioned on a lead, which lead is up to about 150 mm long.

11. (original) The method of Claim 9 further comprising generating and delivering excitatory stimulation pulses to at least one of the intercostal nerves and the intercostal nerve branches.

12. (original) The method of Claim 9 further comprising generating and delivering stimulation pulses of less than about 15 mA to at least one of the intercostal nerves and the intercostal nerve branches.

AB-308U

10/731,551

13. (original) The method of claim 9 wherein the implantable stimulator further comprises at least one sensor and the method further comprises sensing at least one condition of the patient.

14. (original) The method of claim 13 wherein the at least one sensed condition is used to adjust the stimulation parameters.

15. (original) The method of claim 14 wherein the parameter adjustment is performed using the at least one external appliance.

16. (original) The method of claim 14 wherein the parameter adjustment is performed by the implantable stimulator.

17. (original) The method of Claim 9 further comprising:  
providing at least one sensor;  
using the at least one sensor to sense a physical condition; and  
adjusting the stimulation parameters based on the sensed condition.

18. (previously presented) A method of using an implantable electrical stimulator to treat angina pectoris, comprising electrically stimulating an intercostal nerve or intercostal nerve branch with an implanted stimulator so as to treat said angina pectoris.

AB-308U

10/731,551

19. (previously presented) The method of Claim 18, wherein said stimulator is a self-contained unit that is sized and shaped for placement of the entire stimulator adjacent to a nerve, said method further comprising implanting said entire stimulator adjacent said intercostal nerve or intercostal nerve branch.

20. (previously presented) The method of Claim 18, further comprising sensing one or more aspects of a patient's condition and adjusting electrical stimulation provided with said stimulator in response thereto.

21. (currently amended) The method of Claim 20, wherein said at least one aspect of a ~~patient's~~ patient's condition is any of blood oxygen level, electrical activity of the patient's heart, patient activity level, respiratory rate, medication level, neurotransmitter level, hormone level, interleukin level, cytokine level, lymphokine level, chemokine level, growth factor level and enzyme level.

22. (previously presented) The method of Claim 18, wherein said stimulating comprises applying a series of inhibitory electrical stimulation pulses.

23. (previously presented) The method of Claim 22, further comprising, after applying said series of inhibitory electrical stimulation pulses, sensing any change in sympathetic firing rate and adjusting electrical stimulation applied with said implanted stimulator in response to any sensed change in sympathetic firing rate.

AB-308U

10/731,551

24. (previously presented) The method of Claim 18, further comprising implanting said stimulator between two of a patient's ribs.

25. (previously presented) The method of Claim 24, wherein said two ribs are respectively located at T1, T2 or T3.

26. (previously presented) The method of Claim 18, further comprising using two or more implanted stimulators to treat said angina pectoris.

27. (previously presented) The method of Claim 26, wherein each of said two or more implanted stimulators stimulates a different intercostal nerve or intercostal nerve branch.

28. (previously presented) A method of using an implantable electrical stimulator to treat angina pectoris, comprising alleviating symptoms of said angina pectoris using said stimulator that applies electrical stimulation to any of an intercostal nerve, intercostal nerve branch, afferent fibers along cardiac sympathetic nerves, first through fourth thoracic sympathetic ganglia, stellate ganglia, afferent fibers along cardiac parasympathetic nerve fibers, superior cervical (vagal) cardiac nerve, inferior cervical (vagal) cardiac nerve, thoracic cardiac branch of a patient's vagus nerve, parasympathetic ganglia or neurons lying in fat pads located next to a patient's sinoatrial node, atrioventricular node or ventricles, a sympathetic trunk at spinal levels T1 through T4, and sympathetic nerves in a patient's thorax, abdomen or pelvis.